GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2833
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2003
INCREASE IN INSECT PESTS
S. SAIDUZZAMAN

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per ICAR PDBC Perspective Plan-Vision-2020, there has been dramatic increase in insect, pests following intensification of agriculture due to use of fertilizers and pesticides and HYV;

(b) whether as against a few pest species in pulses today there are over 250 pests in pulses alone leading to decreased production;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have initiated remedial steps in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) : Although more than 250 pest species are reported to affect different pulse crops in varied agro-climatic situations, only few of them are considered economically important. Among insect pests gram pod borer (Helicoverpa armigera) in chickpea and pigeonpea; spotted caterpiller (Maruca vitrata) and pod fly (Melanogromyza obtusa) in pigeonpea; shootfly in field pea and thrips in vigna group adversely affect production of pulses.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) ICAR is conducting research on development of integrated pest management practices for the control of important pests with Helicoverpa armigera in chickpea and pigeonpea. Research on management of pests through the use of pesticides is also being conducted and pest management packages have been developed to minimise yield losses. Work is also being done on insect resistance management for effective management of various insect pests.